C. R.
MIN. HEALTH
31 JUL 1939
34

LIBRARY

VIOLET COTTAGE,
LLANDOVERY,
31st JULY, 1939.

## To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Llandovery.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1938.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area of the District in Acres ... ... ... ... | 1209 |
| Estimated Population .. ... ... ... | 2006 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses ... ... ... ... | 635 |
| Number of Families living in separate Houses ... ... | Nil |

Rateable Value ... £6447 Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... £25.

There have been no alterations of Legislation in force (local Acts, Bye-laws, etc.) since the last Survey Report. The district is purely Agricultural and immune from any smoke nuisances and is a small Country Town.

There is a part-time Medical Officer of Health who does not hold a Diploma in Public Health, and part-time Sanitary Inspector who does not hold a Certificate under the Sanitary Inspectors Institution. The question of a full-time Medical Officer of Health for the County of Carmarthen is under discussion by the County Council.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

#### Births and Birth Rate.

| | | Total. | M. | F. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births | Legitimate ... ... ... | 25 | 14 | 11 | Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—12.4. |
| | Illegitimate ... ... .. | Nil | Nil | Nil | |
| Still-Births | Legitimate ... ... ... | Nil | Nil | Nil | |
| | Illegitimate ... ... ... | Nil | Nil | Nil | |

#### Deaths and Death Rate.

| | Total. | M. | F. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths ... ... | 25 | 10 | 15. | Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—12.4 |

| Deaths from Puerperal Causes :— | Deaths. | Rate per 1000 total (live and still Births). |
|---|---|---|
| No. 29. (Registrar-General's Short List)—Puerperal Sepsis... | None. | ... ... Total—Nil. |
| No. 30 Ditto Other Puerperal Causes... | None. | ... ... Total—Nil. |

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

| | |
|---|---|
| All Infants per 1000 live births ... ... ... ... ... ... | Nil. |
| Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births ... ... ... | Nil. |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ... ... ... | Nil. |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5. |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | Nil. |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | Nil. |
| Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years of age) ... .. ... ... ... ... | Nil. |

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment.

There have been no cases of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the borough during the year, neither have there been any conditions of occupations or environment which appeared to have had a prejudicial effect on health, and there is no evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

### Laboratory.

There are no Laboratory facilities in the Borough.

### Ambulance.

There is one Motor Ambulance in the Borough which is supported by voluntary subscriptions.
Nursing in the home is provided for by the Llandovery Nursing Association.
There are no Treatment Lectures and Clinics. There is one small Voluntary Hospital.

### Lodging Houses.

There are now no Registered Houses. New Casual Wards at Tanybryn have been constructed at a heavy expenditure, and are now open and these will give sufficient accommodation for Casuals.

### House Refuse and Scavenging.

Scavenging is done regularly by the Council workmen, and the streets are kept clean. People should however avoid dropping paper about the roads as receptacles are now provided by the Council.

House refuse is regularly cleared in the principal streets, and there is also a better clearance in the back Streets. The drains in Stone Street are much better since attention has been paid to them by the County Council by placing new Gullies there.

### Food and Drugs Act.

There have been some inspections made, but everything was found to be normal.

### Zymotic Diseases.

There were no cases of Scarelet Fever, one Pneumonia and no Erysipelas cases notified in the Borough, and every precaution was taken to avoid a spread of the disease.

There is no Institutional provision for Mothers of children; this is provided by the County Council There is however a part-time Health visiting Nurse. There is only one Clinic in the Borough, ante-natal and child welfare.

There are no Nursing Homes under the Registration Act, 1927.

There is no infectious Diseases Hospital in the Borough, but an Isolation Hospital has recently been open at Tumble, near Llanelly, where cases from Llandovery can be accepted.

There is no organisation for child life protection. There are no facilities for Orthopœdic treatment.

## Meat and Food.

No action is taken with regard to Meat and other Food inspection or under the Food and Drug Act.

## Schools.

The College, County School and Council School have been visited and found satisfactory. In the Senior School the Lavatory system was not good, but the Managers have now provided new Lavatories at considerable expense. Neither of the Schools were closed on account of infectious diseases. A new water supply has been laid for the County School.

## Factory and Workshops.

All these have been found clean and well ventilated.

## Cow Sheds.

Cow Sheds in the Borough have all been inspected and show a much desired improvement.

## Water Supply.

No Bacteriological or analytical examination was made during the year as the service was quite satisfactory, and no chemical analysis made during the period. The water supply in the Borough is fairly satisfactory and the matter has received the attention of the Town Council, who are causing new and larger pipes to be laid through the Town.

## Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extension of Sewerage, and no progress made in improving the character and sufficiency of the arrangements for drainage, sewage and sewerage disposal in all parts of the Borough.

## Rivers and Streams.

No pollution of Rivers and Streams has occurred and consquently no action was necessary. No complaints were made by any persons of this.

## Slaughter Houses.

There are 5 Slaughter Houses in the Town. On inspection all have been found clean. The Slaughter of Animals Act which has been adopted by the Town Council is proving of great service in many respects.

## Bakehouses.

These have been inspected and found perfectly clean.

## Tuberculosis.

It is gratifying to state that there has been only one death from Tuberculosis during the year.

## Bed Bugs.

There has been no action taken for the Eradication of bed bugs.

## Blindness.

There has been no action taken for the prevention of blindness or for treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

## Swimming Baths.

There are no Swimming Baths and Pools in the area.

## Maternity and Child Welfare.

This continues to do very useful work in the Town and District, and is much appreciated and found of considerable help by the mothers. The Centre is well attended and keen interest is taken by the mothers and officials. Sessions are held every fortnight, at which short Lectures are delivered by the Medical Officer of Health. Afternoon Teas are also provided by the Committee. There has been no development or change in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the Borough.

## Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

The Sanitary Inspector has made 18 Inspections, and practically all the suggestions have been carried out after notice given to the owners. Drains are frequently disinfected, and the Cattle Market is kept clean, notwithstanding its frequent use for Marts, Fairs, and Stock Sales. The Roadways in the Market have been tar macadamised. The nature of the Inspections comprised drainage; cesspits; slaughter houses; bakehouses; cowsheds; troughings on houses and loose slates on roofs. House Refuse is now dumped in a field situated a considerable distance from the town. The placing of offensive rubbish on the highway has been practically stopped. Caravans are not permitted to remain near dwelling houses. New Offices have been erected for the Divisional Surveyor and his staff.

## Housing Statistics.

1. Number of New Houses erected during the year:—
   (a) Total (including numbers given separately under b)—
   - i. By the Llandovery Town Council ... Nil
   - ii. Under Housing Act 1924 ... Nil
   - iii. Private Enterprise ... 4
   - iv. Under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts ... Nil

(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Act—
i. By Local Authority ... .. ... ... ... ... Nil
(a) For the purpose of part 2 of the Act of 1925 ... ... ... Nil
(b) For the purpose of part 3 of the Act of 1925 ... ... ... Nil
(c) For other purposes... ... ... ... .. ... Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year—
(a) Total number of Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ... ... ... ... 7
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... ... ... 10

2. (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ... 7
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... ... ... .. ... 10

3. Number of Dwelling Houses found in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... ... ... 49

4. Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... Nil

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices —
Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ... ... ... Nil

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year—
A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—
1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil
2. Number of Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice—
(a) By Owners ... ... ... ... ... ... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners... ... ... ... Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... ... ... ... 7
2. Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—
(a) By Owners ... ... ... ... ... ... 10
(b) By Local Authorities in default of Owners ... ... ... Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act 1936—
1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
2. Number of Dwelling Houses Demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936—
1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... ... ... ... ... Nil
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

(a) Proceedings under Section 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act 1930—
1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil
2. Number of Dwelling Houses which where rendered fit after service of formal notices—
(a) By Owners ... ... ... ... ... ... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... ... ... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—
Already included in Annual Report.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act 1930—
1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... None
2. Number of Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... None

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act 1934—
1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... ... ... ... ... None
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... None

Housing Act 1935 Overcrowding—
(a) 1. Number of Dwelling Houses overcrowded at the end of the year ... ... ... 5
2. Number of families dwelling therein ... ... ... ... ... 5
3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... ... ... .. ... 19
(b) Number of New Cases of overcrowding reported during year ... ... ... None
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... ... None
2 Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ... .. ... None
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of Overcrowding ... None
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... ... ... ... None

4. Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority, distinguishing those built in the last two years, and held under—(1) Part 3 of the Housing Act 1925, and built 8 years ago ... 20
(2) Part 2 of the Housing Act 1925, and (3) other powers ... Nil

## Housing Conditions.

1. The Houses erected in the Borough are similar to those erected in a Borough of similar size.
2. (a) There seems a sufficient supply of houses in the Borough, provided some undergo the necessary repairs. At present there are about 30 persons on the waiting list for Council Houses but many of whom reside in decent houses. There are also a number of small vacant houses, some of which should be repaired and reconditioned.
Approximately 56 houses are unfit for habitation. A five year programme has been adopted by the Council to erect 55 houses.

(b) There is practically very little change in the population, neither is this anticipated in the future as there are no industries other than agriculture. It is a small Country Market Town.

(c) Suitable sites are somewhat difficult to obtain.

3. Most Houses have a fair internal Water Supply, whilst other Houses have a supply of water quite near at hand. 511 Houses possess Water Closets ; 76 Houses Deep Pit Closets ; whilst the 54 erected under the Housing Act 1919, have a bucket system, which is cleared nightly. There have been no conversions. There is no extension or improvements for public cleansing.

4. There are no what one may term unhealthy areas in the Borough, but the Council propose erecting ten houses under the 1936 Act.

5. There are no Bye-laws in the Borough, but the Council have under consideration the adoption of the same, particularly relative to new streets and buildings.

## Parking.

I consider that the Parking facilities for Motor Cars and Shows on the Main Street extending from the Town Hall to College House should be abolished as they obstruct the traffic, and are a nuisance to the residents. In this area there are business premises and residences of two local doctors. Space is necessary as motor cars conveying patients cannot get near the surgeries, and the doctors find it difficult to get their own cars away for the purpose of attending to their cases.

## Meat Market.

The Council have renovated this building and this should prove of great service, and a much needed improvement in the Borough. Its construction cost at least £1000.

## Public Conveniences.

The Council have provided an up-to-date Public Convenience in the Borough, which was much required. This has been found very serviceable, but persons who create damage there should be prosecuted.

## Milk and Dairies Act.

In this Borough a great deal ot Milk Selling takes place. The milk is of good quality on the whole and no complaints have been made. The Cow Sheds are now kept clean as they should be. The walls whitewashed oftener. The owners have kept their promise to improve matters. Steps were taken to have a Bacteriological examination of Milk, and the Milk was found of good quality. There are no Tubercular persons employed in the Milk business.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Retailers within the area ... ... .. ... | 10 |
| Number of Retailers outside the area ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Number of Producers inside the area ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| Number of Producers outside and also Retailers ... ... ... | 3 |

## Shop Acts.

No action has been taken under the provisions of the Shop Act, 1934, regarding ventilation and temperature of Shops and Sanitary arrangements.

## Cancer.

There has been no campaign against Cancer.

## Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

| Age Period. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | |
| 24 ... ... ... | None | 1 | None | None | None | | None | |
| 35 ... ... ... | None | 1 | None | None | None | | None | |
| 62 ... ... ... | None | None | None | None | 1 | | None | |
| Total ... ... | None | 2 | None | None | 1 | | None | |

There were three cases notified of Tuberculosis. The efficiency of Notification of Tuberculosis in the area is thorough and deserves commendation.

## Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during year 1938.

| Disease. | Age. | Total Cases Notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever ... | None | None | None | None |
| Erysipelas ... ... | None | None | None | None |
| Pneumonia ... ... | 42 years | 1 | None | None |
| Total ... .. | | 1 | | |

I beg to thank Mr. E. Williams, the Sanitary Inspector, for his ever ready assistance during the period I have acted as Medical Officer of Health.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

**JOHN THOMAS PRICE, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O.,**

*Medical Officer of Health for the Llandovery Borough.*